

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01110 030147Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12 /101 W  
-----018429 031406Z /47

R 012154Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1004  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS CARACAS 1110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PORG, PEPR, PN, IT, CT, CI, VE

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MEET IN CARACAS

1. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (UMDC) MET IN CARACAS JANUARY 30-31. DELEGATES FROM 20 COUNTRIES ATTENDED, AMONG THEM MARIANO RUMOR OF ITALY AND RENE DE LEON OF GUATEMALA, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL RESPECTIVELY OF THE UMDC. OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE AMINTORE FANFANI, PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT; ROBERT VANDERCHKHOVE, PRESIDENT OF THE BELGIAN SENATE; NAPOLEON DUARTE OF GUATEMALA, PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ODACA); AND EX-VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT, RAFAEL CALDERA. WITH AN ADDRESS IN WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE PINOCHET REGIME IN CHILE. HE ALSO CALLED FOR A SOLUTION TO THE INEQUALITIES DIVIDING LDC'S AND INDUSTRIALISED NATIONS, UNDERLINING THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN NARROWING THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL GAPS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. RUMOR NOTED THAT COMMUNISM, AS A MODEL FOR SOCIETY "NOW FACES ITS MOST GRAVE CRISIS IN HISTORY," BUT ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS THREATENED BY TOTALITARIAN REGIMES. FINALLY, HE VOICED HOPE FOR THE VENEZUELAN SOCIAL  
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PAGE 02 CARACA 01110 030147Z

DEMOCRAT (COPEI) CANDIDATE, LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS, IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA AND COPEI CANDIDATE LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS ALSO ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL)

3. IN THE CLOSING SESSION, THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE UDMC ISSUED A DECLARATION CONDEMNING ALL POLITICAL SYSTEMS USING REPRES-

SIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION, EXILE, DEPRIVATION OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS, AND THE USE OF RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE CONFERENCE SIGNALLED OUT CHILE, CONDEMNING IT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND REPRESSION, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF FORMER CHILEAN SENATE PRESIDENT TOMAS REYES VICUNA. A RESOLUTION ALSO PROPOSED THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION MADE UP OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PLEDGED TO STRESS DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DELEGATES ALSO AGREED TO PETITION THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO STOP ARMS SALES TO AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. ON OTHER MATTERS, THE CONFERENCE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER EDUARDO FREI WHICH NOTED THAT TERRORIST VIOLENCE HAS PROVOKED THE FORMATION OF DICTATORSHIPS THAT NOW OPPRESS MANY COUNTRIES.

5. IN RELATION TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, THE DELEGATES SAID IT WAS "OFFENSIVE" ON THE PART OF THE U.S. SENATE TO BE NEGOTIATING A NEW AGREEMENT WHILE "LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY" WERE NOT PRESENT IN PANAMA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PORG, PEPR, PN, IT, CT, CI, VE, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC WORLD UNION  
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